



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
March 24, 2008

Contact: Becky Lathrop, Director of Marketing
blathrop@operacolorado.org
303-778-0214

OPERA COLORADO ANNOUNCES SOUTHERN AND WESTERN SLOPE TOURS APRIL 1 – 3 & APRIL 6 – 12, 2008

Denver, Colo.— Opera Colorado announces the **2008 Outreach Ensemble's Southern and Western Slope Tours**. Beginning **April 1 and ending April 12**, the Southern and Western Slope Tours will bring opera to six cities throughout southern and western Colorado. The Outreach Ensemble will travel with portable scenery and costumes to perform entertaining musical offerings that are typically presented in the Denver Metro community to both youth and adult audiences. Director of Education and Outreach **Leigh Holman** says: "We want to introduce Coloradoans to opera in an engaging and memorable way that will increase their understanding and appreciation of opera. Touring the state is one of the highlights of our annual activities and we always look forward to sharing the excitement of opera with new faces."

The Southern and Western Slope Tours include:

Arias & Ensembles: A recital program featuring some of opera's greatest hits. Including highlights from all three of Opera Colorado's main-stage operas plus other popular works from the operatic repertoire. Arias and Ensembles concerts are interspersed with background information and interesting facts about the music.

La Curandera: The Opera Colorado-commissioned bilingual opera by Robert Xavier Rodriguez. The one-act family opera follows a young couple traveling to present-day Tepoztlán, Mexico to visit a beloved relative. When misunderstandings erupt, the only person who can help is a mysterious woman, La Curandera, revered by all in the village. The opera is full of melodic Mexican rhythms and catchy lyrics that audiences of all ages will enjoy.

Cinderella: Opera Colorado brings the story of Cinderella to life in the enchanting English version of Rossini's charming fairytale opera! Complete with wicked stepsisters, a greedy stepfather, and a prince who's switched places with his servant, this rendition will thrill audiences of all ages!

Master Classes: Hands-on workshops taught by various guest artists fashioned around specific needs of music students, concentrating on auditioning, stage fright, diction, acting, movement, or other important performance elements.

Southern Tour Locations:

CSU Pueblo, Pueblo, April 1 & 2, 2008

Alamosa Boys & Girls Club, Alamosa, April 3, 2008

Western Slope Tour Locations:

Valley Fellowship Church, Buena Vista, April 6, 2008 at 3:00 pm

Buena Vista High School, Buena Vista, April 7, 2008

Buena Vista Elementary School, Buena Vista, April 7, 2008

Western State College, Gunnison, April 8, 2008

Gunnison High School, Gunnison, April 9, 2008

Crested Butte Community School, Crested Butte, April 10, 2008

Vision School at the Blue Sage Theater, Paonia, April 11 & 12, 2008

Blue Sage Center for the Arts, Paonia, April 12, 2008 at 7:00 pm

The Opera Colorado Outreach Ensemble is comprised of a select group of professional opera performers who are auditioned nationally to partake in a residency with Opera Colorado's Education department, performing in schools and other venues throughout the state of Colorado. This year's Outreach Ensemble is comprised of:

Steven Aguiló-Arbues, accompanist; **Carlos Aguirre**, baritone; **Kristin Behrmann**, mezzo-soprano; **Hak Soo Kim**, tenor; **Rodolfo Nieto**, bass-baritone; **Eve Orenstein**, mezzo-soprano; **Michelle Trovato**, soprano.

Each year, Opera Colorado's education and outreach programs bring opera to over **20,000** people in communities across Colorado. The Southern and Western Slope Tour is supported in part by Bank of Colorado and Joy and Chris Dinsdale. Additional funding for Education and Outreach Programs is provided by Boettcher Foundation, Galen and Ada Belle Spencer Foundation, Gates Family Foundation, The Pioneer Fund, Scientific & Cultural Facilities District.

The production of *La Curandera* received Funding from OPERA America's **Opera Fund**.

For more information on booking a performance or tour, contact Leigh Holman or Cherity Koepke in the Education and Outreach office at 303-778-1500 or visit www.operacolorado.org.

###